720 Sprague Street Walla Walla, WA 99362



509-527-3775 Fax: 509-527-3776 seniors.bmi.net

11/7/2014

Dick Fondahn. Manager Valley Transit 1401 W. Rose Street Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Dick,

I am writing in support of Valley Transit and the Dial-a-Ride and Transit program, and grant applications.

We are in very much support of a grant for additional mini busses for the Dial-A-Ride program. Dial-a-Ride is the lifeblood of many of our less ambulatory clients to come and participate in meals, Adult Day Center services, classes, and activities, and to get around town for medical appointments, shopping, etc.. It is a great program, always moving, and can use help of newer busses.

We are also very much in support of Valley Transit's application for an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) hardware and software to improve the user experience of public transportation customers. This will provide better traveler information and trip planning services, particularly for customers with accessibility challenges.

Walla Walla has a high percentage of elderly persons, about 22%. We are very much in support of Valley Transit's applications to strengthen transportation services here in Southeast Washington state for clients such as these, our clients too.

Sincerely,

Howard Ostby

ostby@bmi.net